Deep Sea Exploration

704. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news-item captioned "ONGC plans to undertake deep sea exploration" appearing in the "Times of India" dated July 4, 1997.

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the places where he deep sea exploration is proposed to be done during 1997-98, State-wise;

(d) the estimated production of petroleum products as a result thereof during 1997-98 and the remaining period of Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the estimated cost of exploration per barrel?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. ONGC has prioritised three deep water locations for drilling in 1997-98, one each in the Kerala-Konkan, Krishna-Godavari and Cauvery basin.

(d) The production of crude oil from deep sea locations will depend on the results of exploration activities planned during 1997-98.

(e) It is not feasible to estimate the cost of exploration per barrel at this juncture.

Ports in Loss

705. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the ports which are running in loss;

(b) if so, since when and the details of the ports running in loss; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the performance of those ports?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) All the Major Port Trusts have shown operating surplus during the last three years. The figures of operating surplus for the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the attached Statement.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply to part (a), do not arise.

Statement

Operating Surplus of Major Port Trusts during the years 1993-94 to 1995-96

(Rs. in crores)

Name of Ports	1993-94 Operating Surplus	1994-95 Operating Surplus	1995-96 Operating Surplus
KPT	50.07	63.06	71.84
MBPT	176.75	174.53	268.29
JNPT	24.59	66.08	118.03
MoPT	27.91	22.88	16.35
NMPT	10.32	15.24	14.38
CoPT	9.79	19.80	25.45
TPT	11.46	11.29	25.87
MPT	109.40	97.60	103.23
VPT	70.50	78.71	97.19
PPT	48.26	55.59	65.32
CPT	129.77	155.36	189.91

[Translation]

Setting up of Oil Refinery

706. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to set up oil refinery in the rural and tribal areas of Gujarat is pending with the Government for approval and implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the installed capacity of the proposed oil refineries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) An